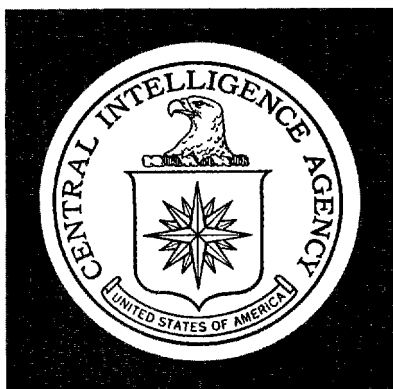


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Israel-Egypt: The recent series of aircraft strikes against Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal is apparently indicative of Israel's tactical pattern for the immediate future.

Since 20 July, Israeli aircraft have struck three times against Egyptian installations on the west side of the canal. In announcing yesterday's action, an Israeli spokesman noted that Egyptian violations of the cease-fire had continued, and that "consequently Israeli Air Force planes attacked."

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The Israelis, still very conscious of casualties, had heretofore avoided using aircraft on this front. Nevertheless, a hardened Israeli attitude has become evident recently. This is typified by the Defense Ministry official's comment that "it's a poker game, and the sky's the limit."

For their part, the Egyptians appear determined to keep the situation along the canal active whatever the consequences. Even prior to his blustery speech on Wednesday, Nasir indicated he felt compelled to harass the Israelis along the canal. Moreover, in spite of severe losses during the heavy clashes of the past few days, the Egyptian Air Force has so far continued to seek combat with the Israelis and has now begun its own air strikes against Israeli positions near the canal.

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